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Letter dated 21 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement concerning the signing, on 16 November in Dar es Salaam, of the peace agreement between the Transitional Government of Burundi and the Forces for the Defence of Democracy movement, issued on 19 November 2003 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marcello **Spatafora**
Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 21 November 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement concerning the signing, on 16 November 2003 in Dar es Salaam, of the peace agreement between the Transitional Government of Burundi and the Forces for the Defence of Democracy movement, issued on 19 November 2003 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the signing, this past Sunday 16 November in Dar es Salaam, of the peace agreement between the Transitional Government of Burundi and the Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD) movement led by Pierre Nkurunziza. After the conclusion of the Pretoria Protocol on Political, Defence and Security Power-Sharing in Burundi on 8 October and the subsequent agreements of 2 November between the Government of Burundi and FDD, the European Union considers that a further stage on the road to peace has been completed and urges the parties to implement the agreements as soon as possible.

At the same time the European Union regrets that fighting is still going on in several provinces of the country, and especially in rural Bujumbura. The European Union once again calls on the National Liberation Forces movement led by Agathon Rwasa to abandon the military option, which appears to be as increasingly futile as it is deadly, aggravating the enormous suffering already visited upon the population. As in its statement of 14 October, the European Union also calls on the Government of Burundi to keep the door open for negotiations.

The European Union thanks the organizations and countries which made the signing possible: the Regional Initiative, the Presidency of the African Union, South Africa, contributors to the African Mission in Burundi. It reiterates its support for the African Mission in Burundi. The Union also affirms its commitment to supporting the reconstruction of the country at this crucial stage in its history and emphasizes the importance of the donors' round table which will be held in Brussels on 14 and 15 January 2004.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and the EFTA countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.